

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 94

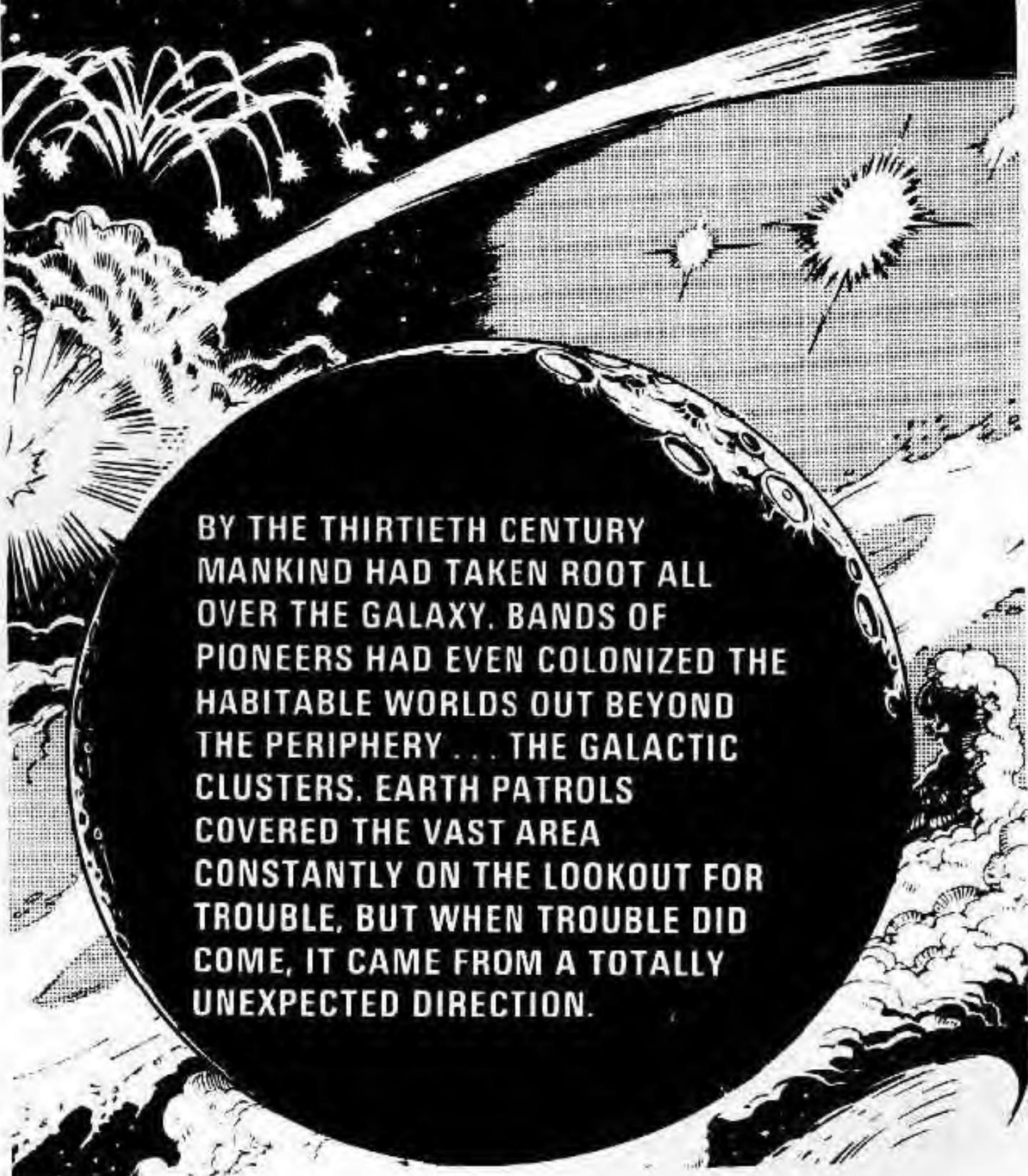
18p



TERRIBLE DANGERS LURKED
BENEATH THE SURFACE OF
THIS ARTIFICIAL WORLD

THE MEGALOI MENACE

STARBLAZER



BY THE THIRTIETH CENTURY
MANKIND HAD TAKEN ROOT ALL
OVER THE GALAXY. BANDS OF
PIONEERS HAD EVEN COLONIZED THE
HABITABLE WORLDS OUT BEYOND
THE PERIPHERY . . . THE GALACTIC
CLUSTERS. EARTH PATROLS
COVERED THE VAST AREA
CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR
TROUBLE, BUT WHEN TROUBLE DID
COME, IT CAME FROM A TOTALLY
UNEXPECTED DIRECTION.

The MEGALOID MENACE

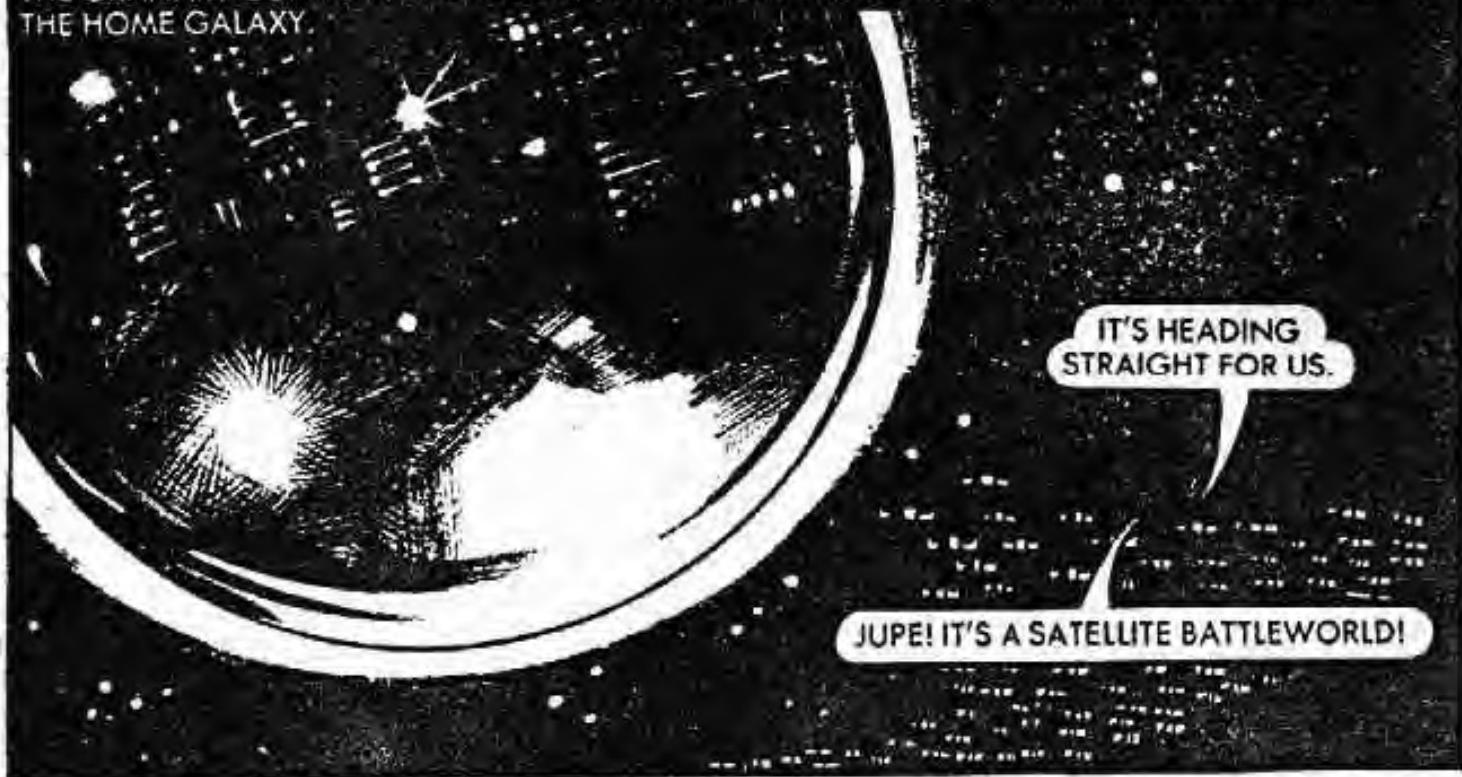
A BOARD THE ESCORT VESSEL OF AN EARTH GRANARY CONVOY, DEEP IN SPACE . . .

UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT AT DD2 1BH . . .
SPEED IS 1.72 MEGALATCH.

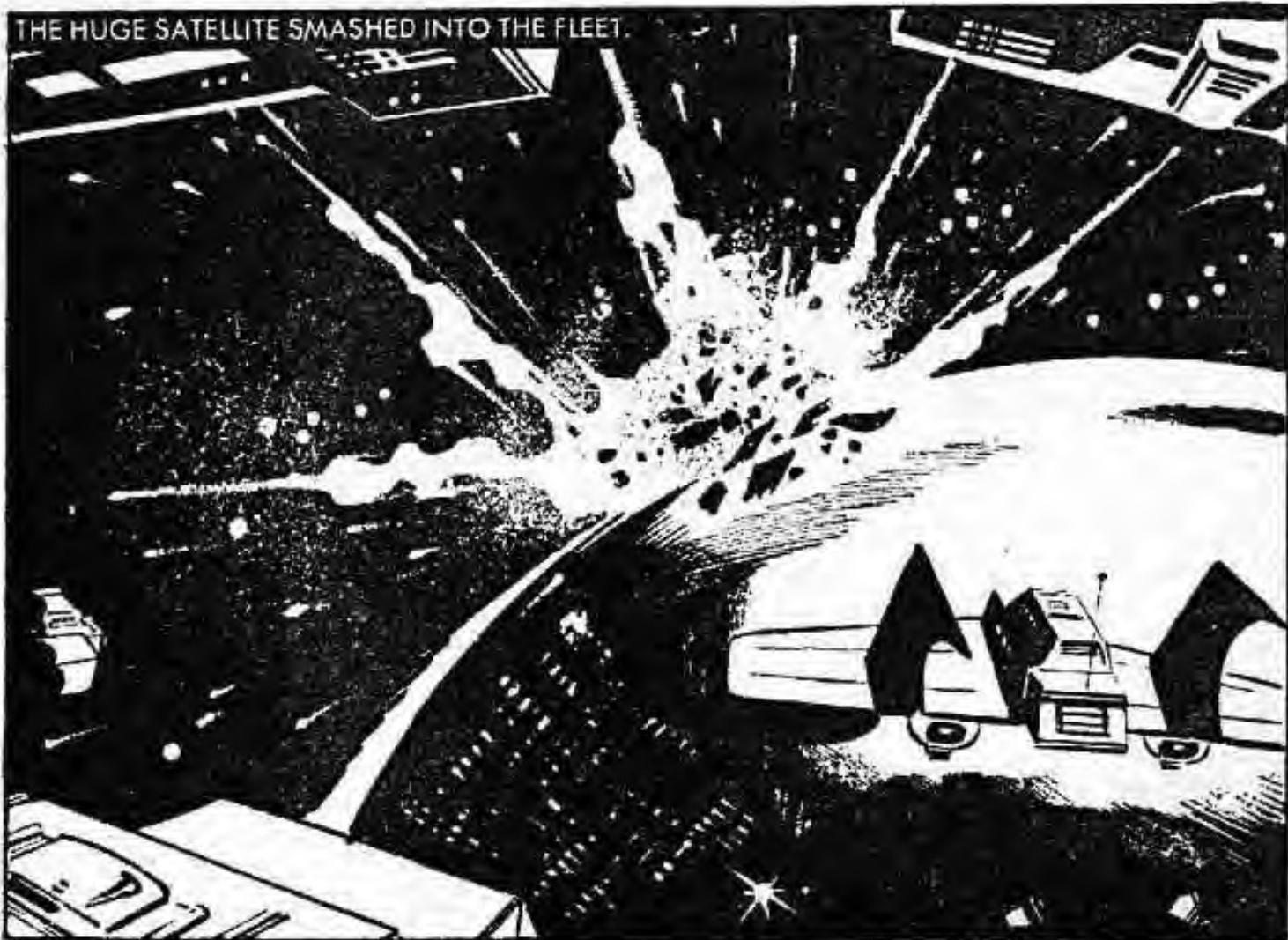
CONTACT IT!



THE GRANARY CONVOY PLIED REGULARLY BETWEEN THE STACHUS FARMING CLUSTERS AND THE HOME GALAXY.



THE HUGE SATELLITE SMASHED INTO THE FLEET.





WITH DEATH AND DEBRIS LITTERING SPACE, THE BATTLEWORLD MOVED ON.



IN HIS CENTRAL WORLD OFFICE, ON EARTH, THE DIRECTOR OF THE GALACTIC SECURITY SERVICE SUMMONED AGENT HART TALLIS.



TALLIS, WE HAVE A PROBLEM...
WE'VE LOST THE STACHUS FLEET.

THAT'S A NAVY
JOB, SURELY?

THE NAVY'S THERE, BUT THEY CAN'T FIND A SINGLE CLUE AS TO WHAT HAPPENED. FROM THE ENTIRE FLEET WE RECEIVED ONLY ONE S.O.S. — AND SO FAR NOT A SINGLE SURVIVOR HAS BEEN FOUND.



IN THE DESPATCHING CENTRE OF THE GALACTIC SECURITY SERVICE . . .



GALACTIC CLUSTER 7. THOUSANDS OF WORLDS, MOSTLY UNEXPLORED. WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

HART LEFT EARTH, AND SET COURSE FOR THE GRANARY CONVOY'S LAST POSITION.



ISAK, THE INTERNAL SENTIENT ANALOGUE COMPUTER,
CONTROLLED TAURUS, HART'S SHIP—

YOU'RE IN
CHECK, ISAK.



THE TAURUS CHANGED ITS COURSE.



A UNIT LATER IT MADE CONTACT, AND TALLIS TRANSFERRED TO THE FLAGSHIP—



HART SAW ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE STACHUS FLEET.



TALLIS QUESTIONED THE CAPTAIN—

HAVE YOU FOUND ANY
FLIGHT BOXES?

NOT YET! WE'RE STILL LOOKING. IT'S A
SHAMBLES OUT THERE—EVERY SHIP
DESTROYED!



THE FLIGHT BOX WAS THE DISASTER RECORDER CARRIED IN ALL SHIPS.



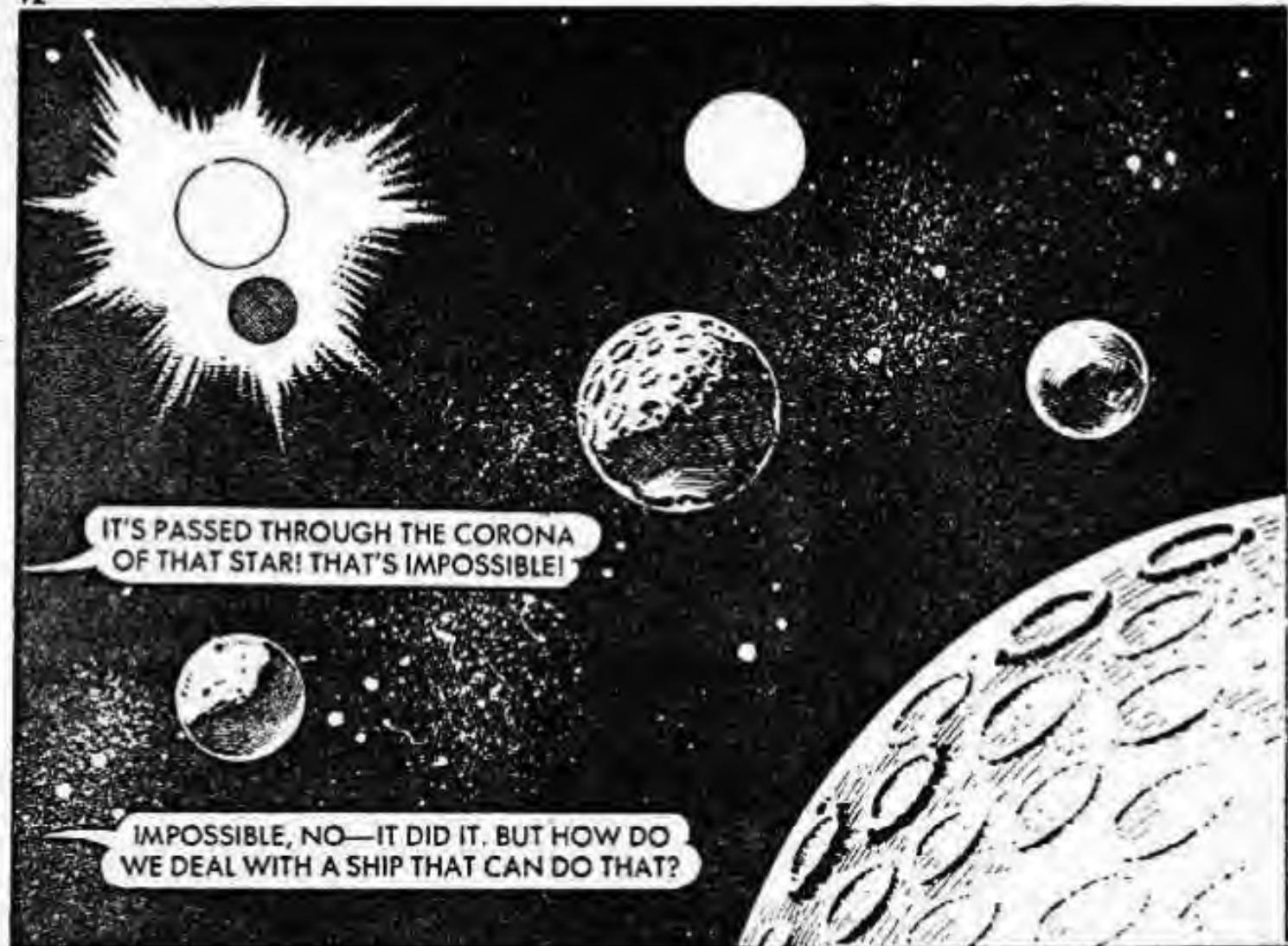
THE BLACK BOX WAS LINKED TO A VID-SCREEN—

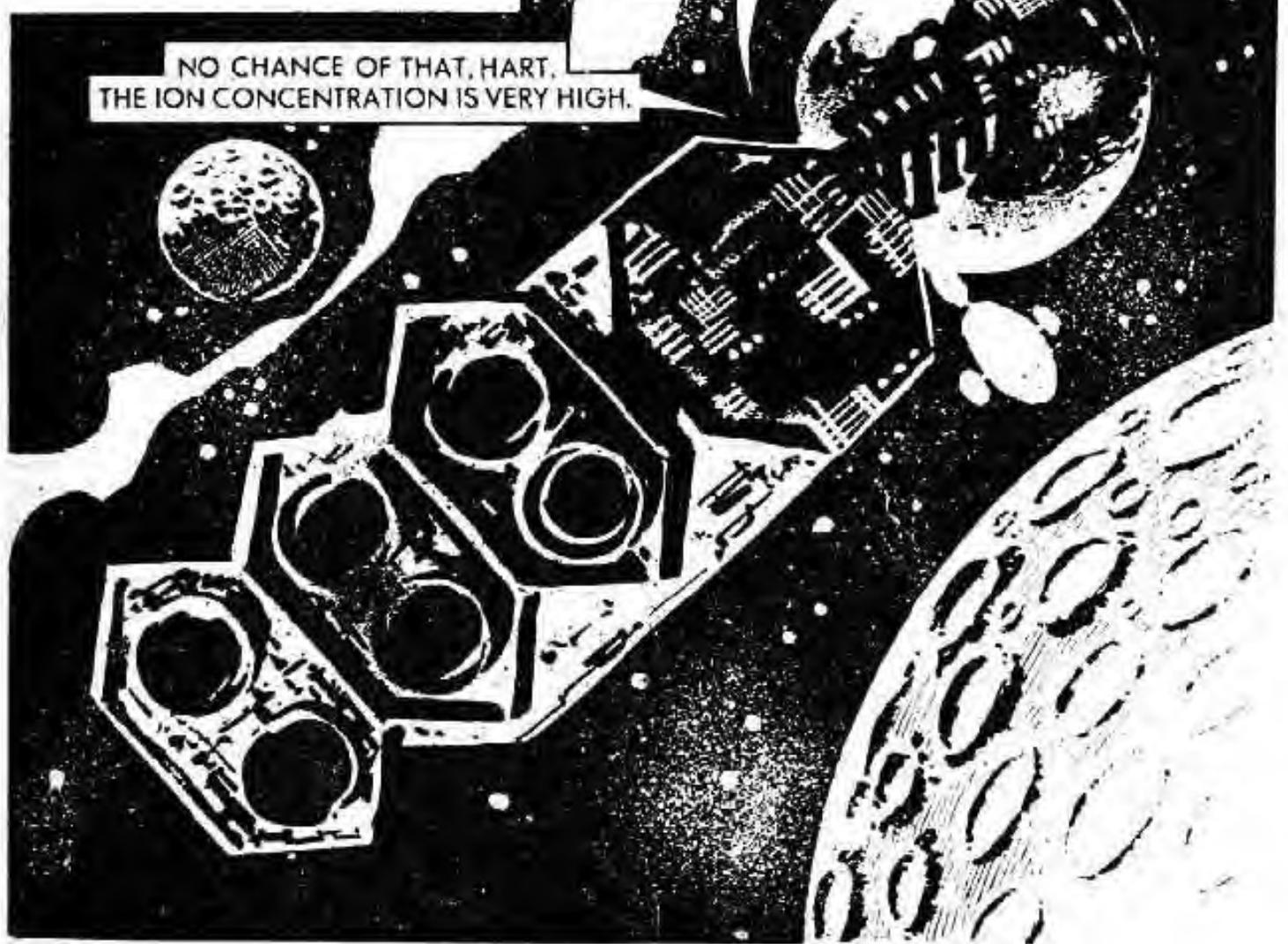
THE BLACK BOX KEPT RECORDING, EVEN
AFTER THE SHIPS WERE DESTROYED.

IT IS A BATTLEWORLD!

GREAT SPACE!







THE TAURUS PLUNGED DEEP INTO THE HEART OF THE CLUSTER...



... STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE PLANET FYLAX.



MY SENSORS DETECT NONE, BUT THEY DO DETECT
ARTEFACTS—ALL THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS AT
LEAST A MILLION YEARS OLD.

THERE ARE ROADS AND A PYLON WHICH IS MADE OF NEUTRONIUM, THE HEAVIEST AND HARDEST SUBSTANCE KNOWN.

LET'S LAND AND INVESTIGATE FURTHER.

ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE, HART STOOD IN A DERELICT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

I AM STILL GETTING NO LIFE FORM READING ON MY SENSORS.

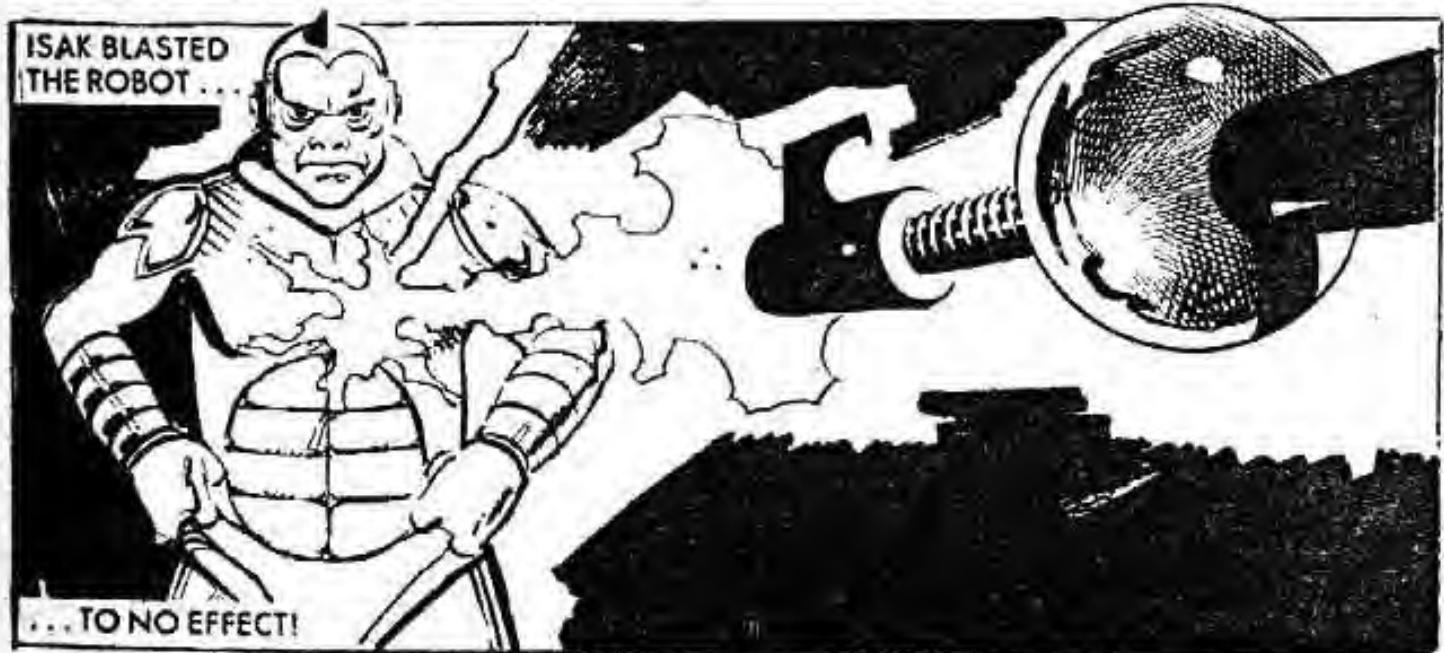
ALL THE SAME, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY, ISAK.

SUDDENLY, A MEGALOI LUMBERED INTO VIEW —

A MEGALOI — WE COME IN PEACE!

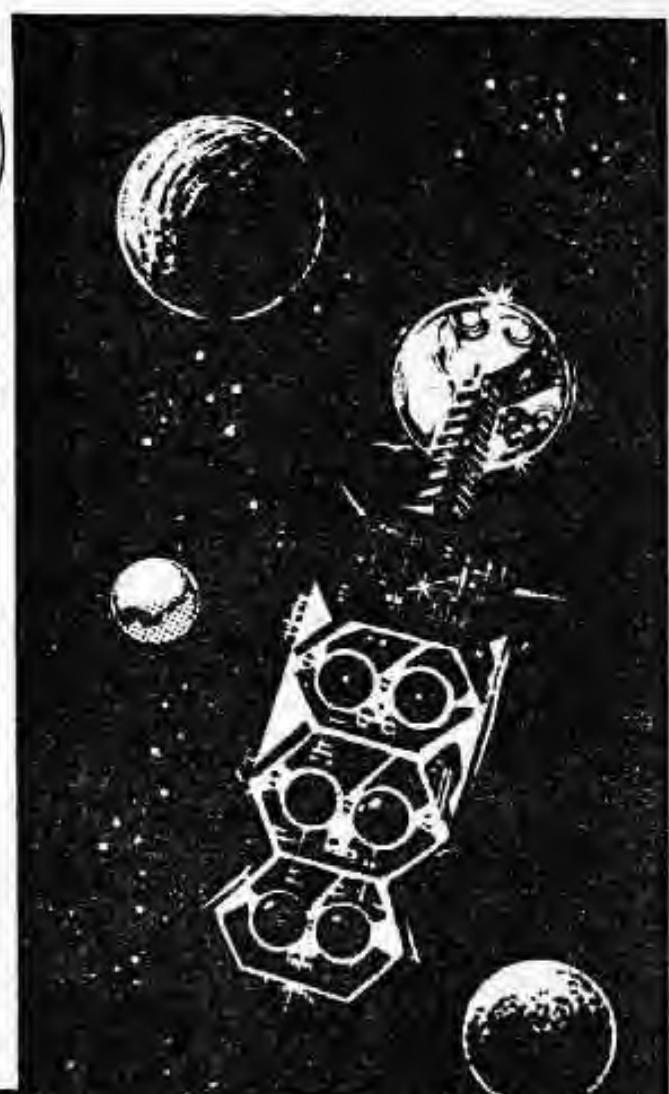
MEGALOI ... ROBOTS OF IMMENSE SIZE ... ORIGIN UNKNOWN ... I SHALL INVESTIGATE MEMORY BANKS.









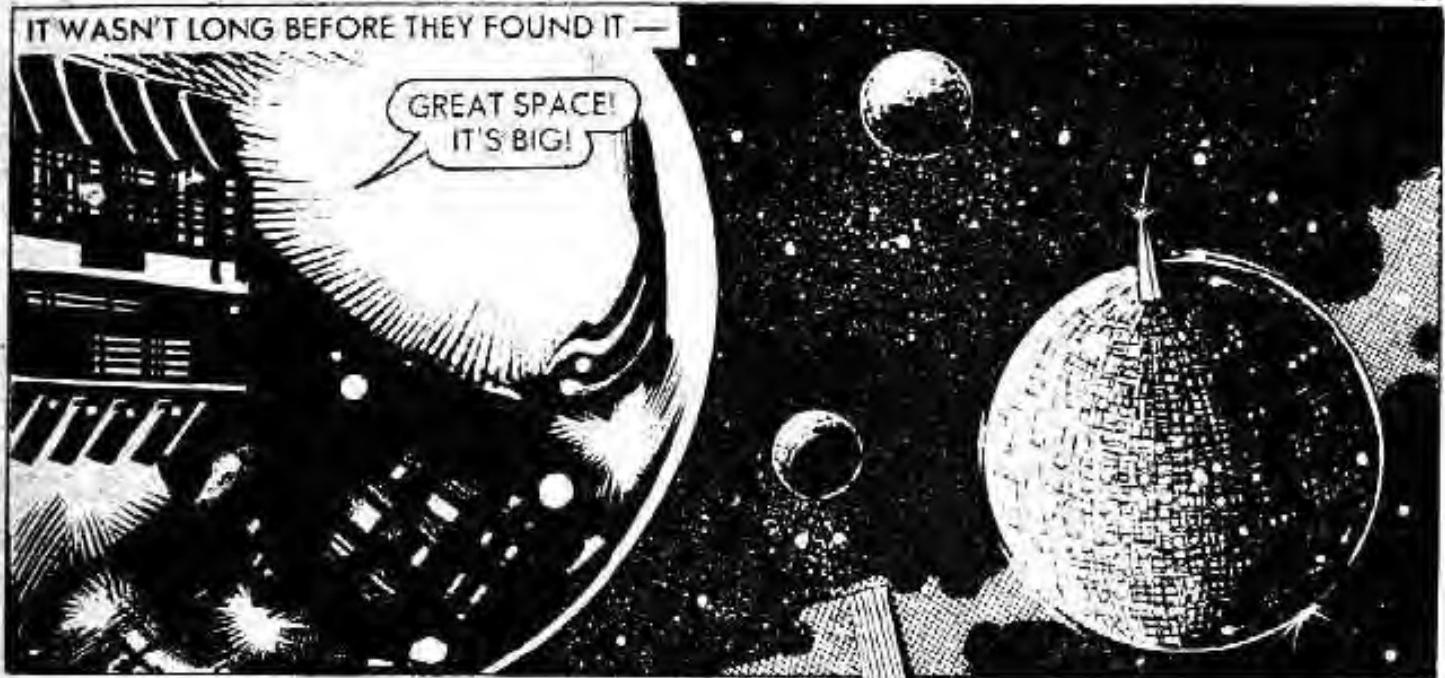


HART RETURNED TO HIS CRAFT AND THE TAURUS PLUNGED YET DEEPER INTO THE CLUSTER, HEADING FOR THE BATTLEWORLD . . .

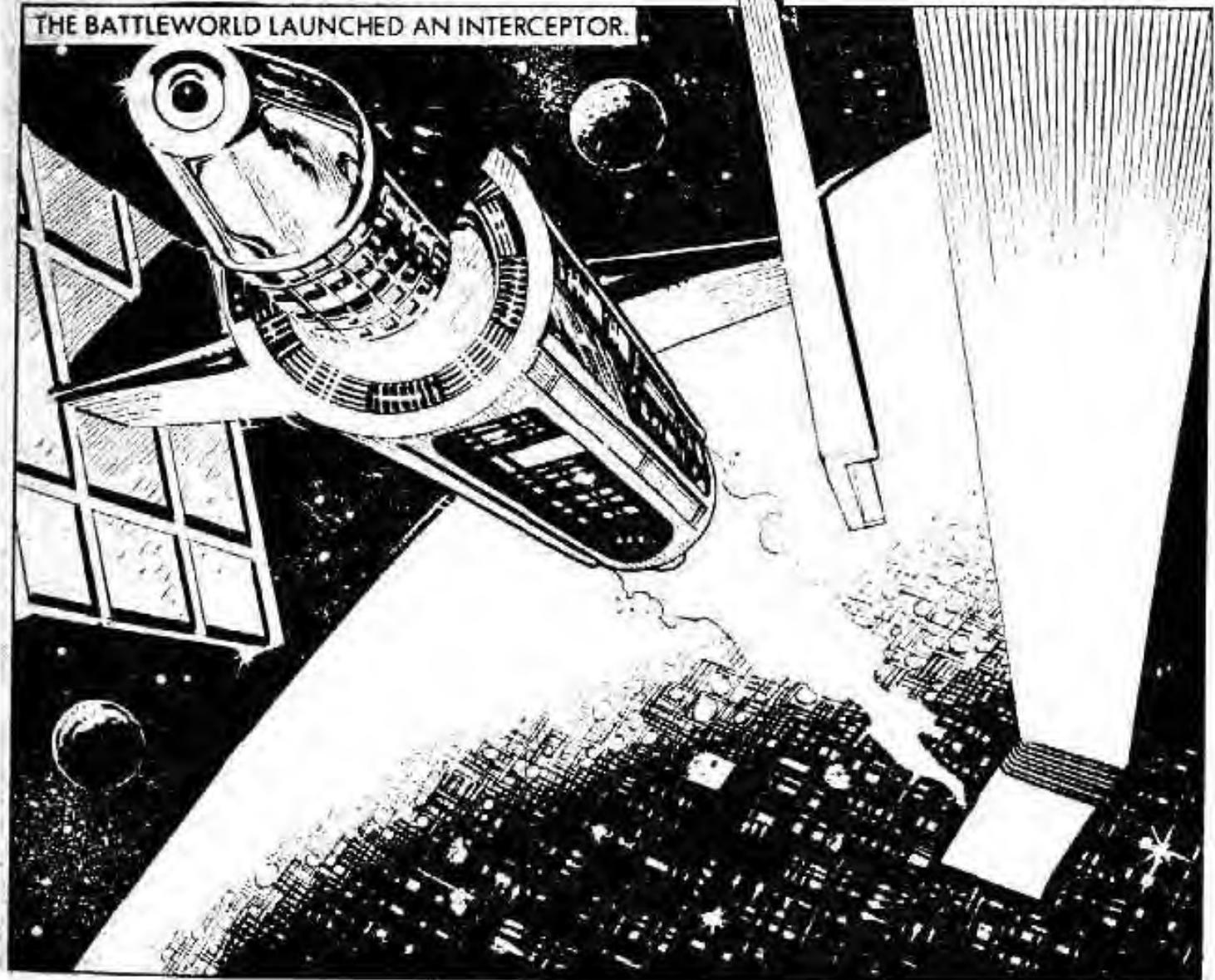


IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEY FOUND IT —

GREAT SPACE!
IT'S BIG!



THE BATTLEWORLD LAUNCHED AN INTERCEPTOR.

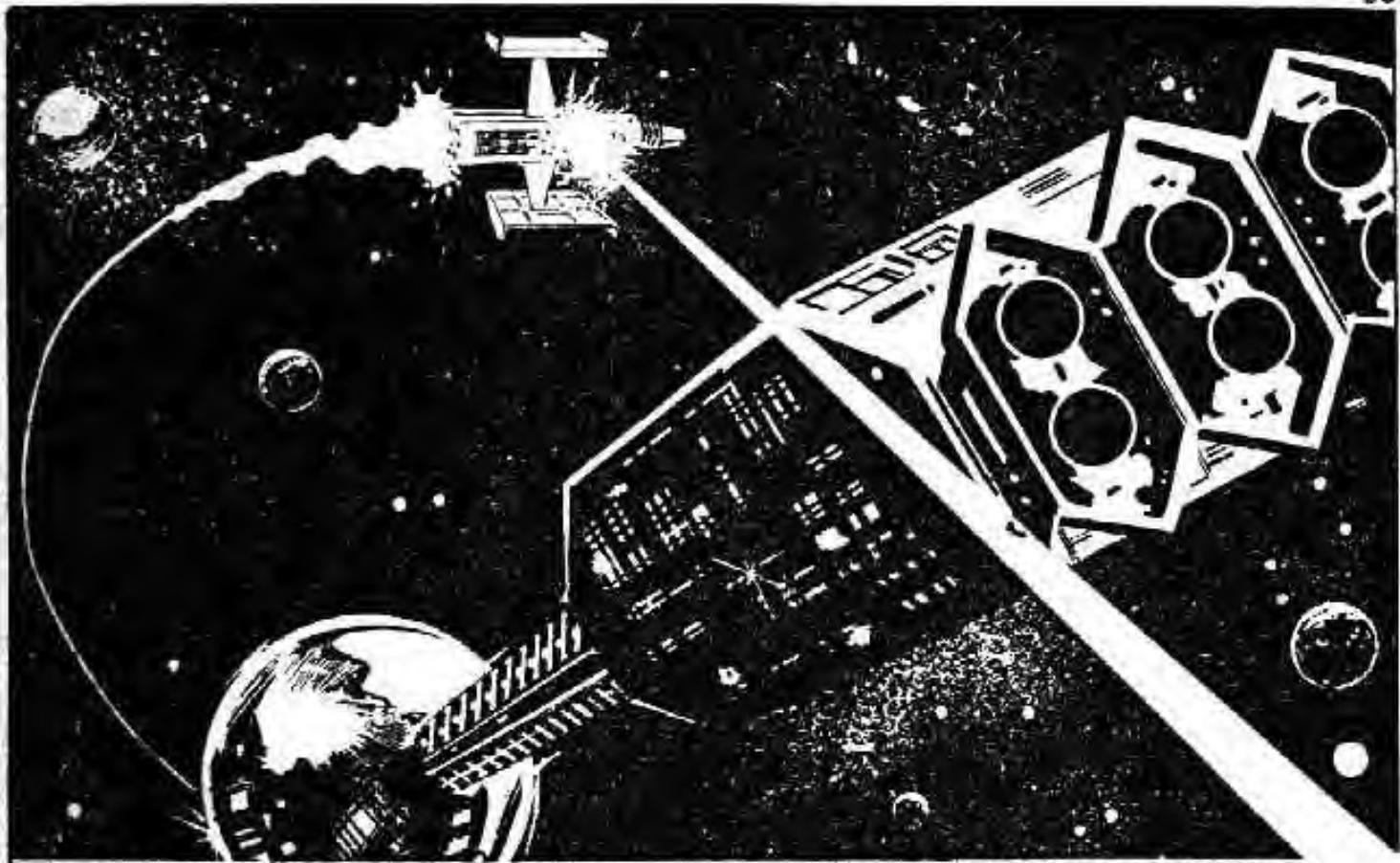


HART TOOK EVASIVE ACTION.

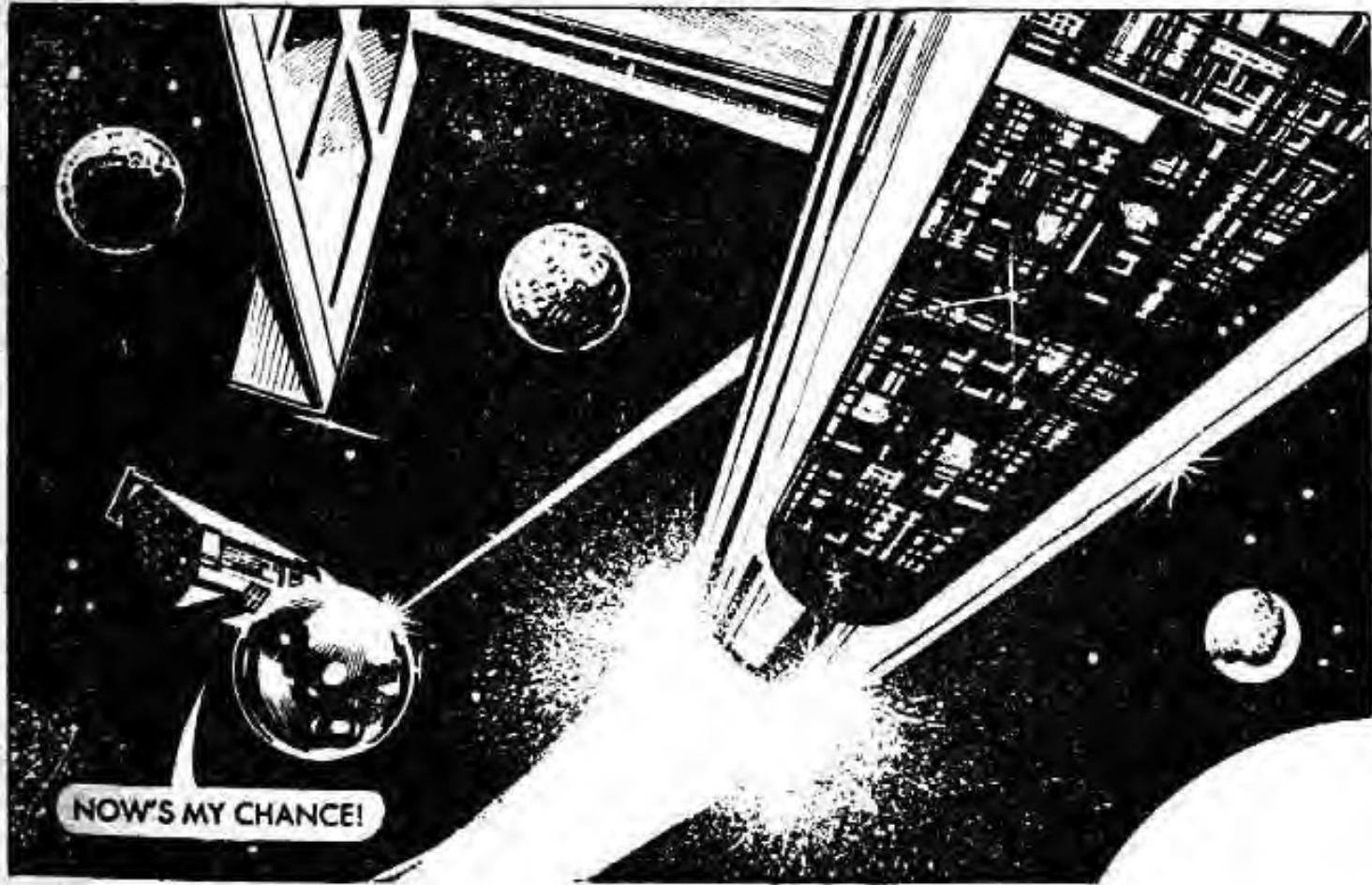


JUDGING BY THE ACCELERATION OF THAT
CRAFT THE PILOT IS OBVIOUSLY A ROBOT.
NO LIFEFORM COULD SURVIVE THE
PRESSURE SET UP BY THAT SORT OF
ACCELERATION.

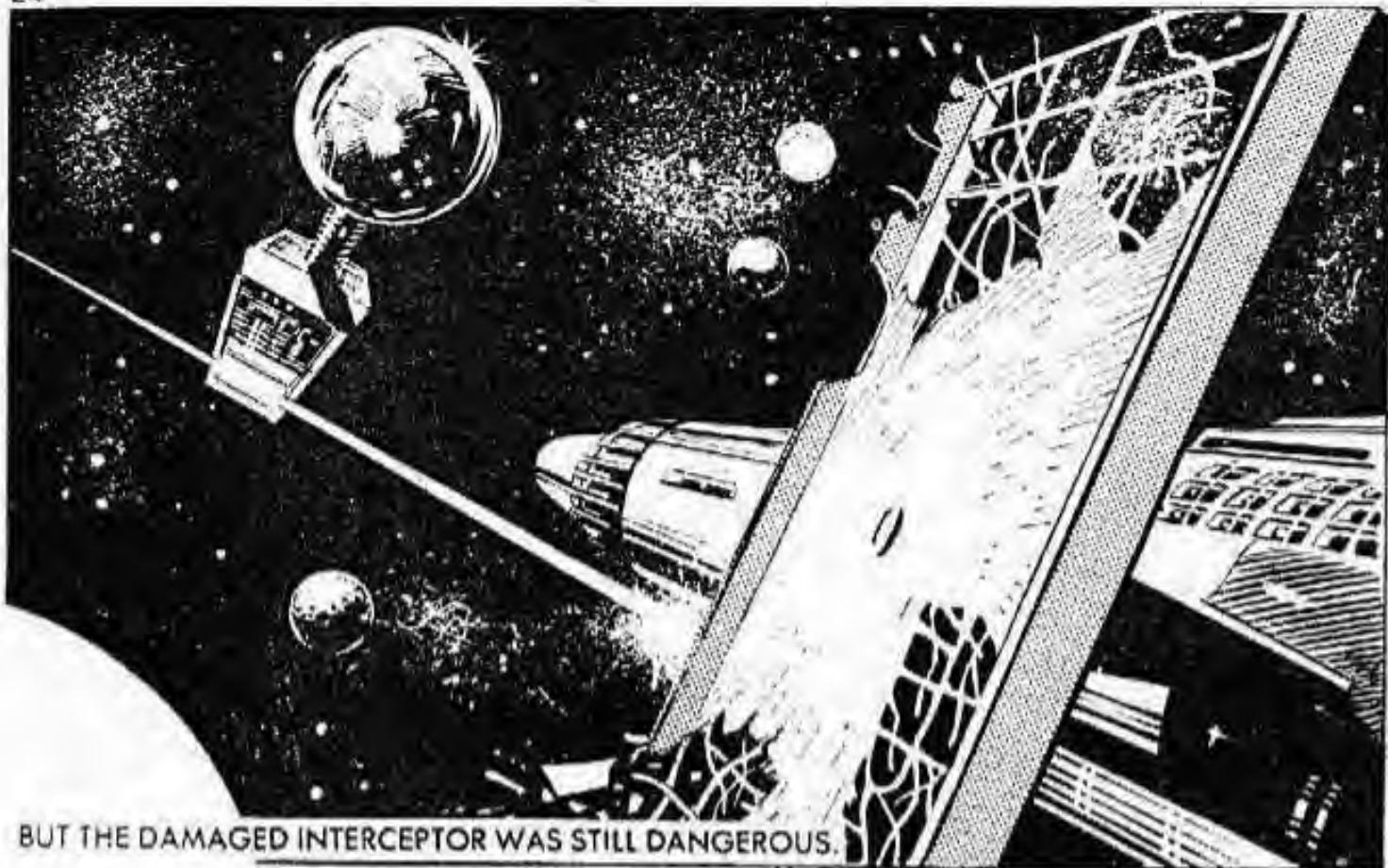




A PHOTON BLAST FROM THE BATTLEWORLD, MEANT FOR TAURUS, STRUCK THE ALIEN CRAFT.



NOW'S MY CHANCE!

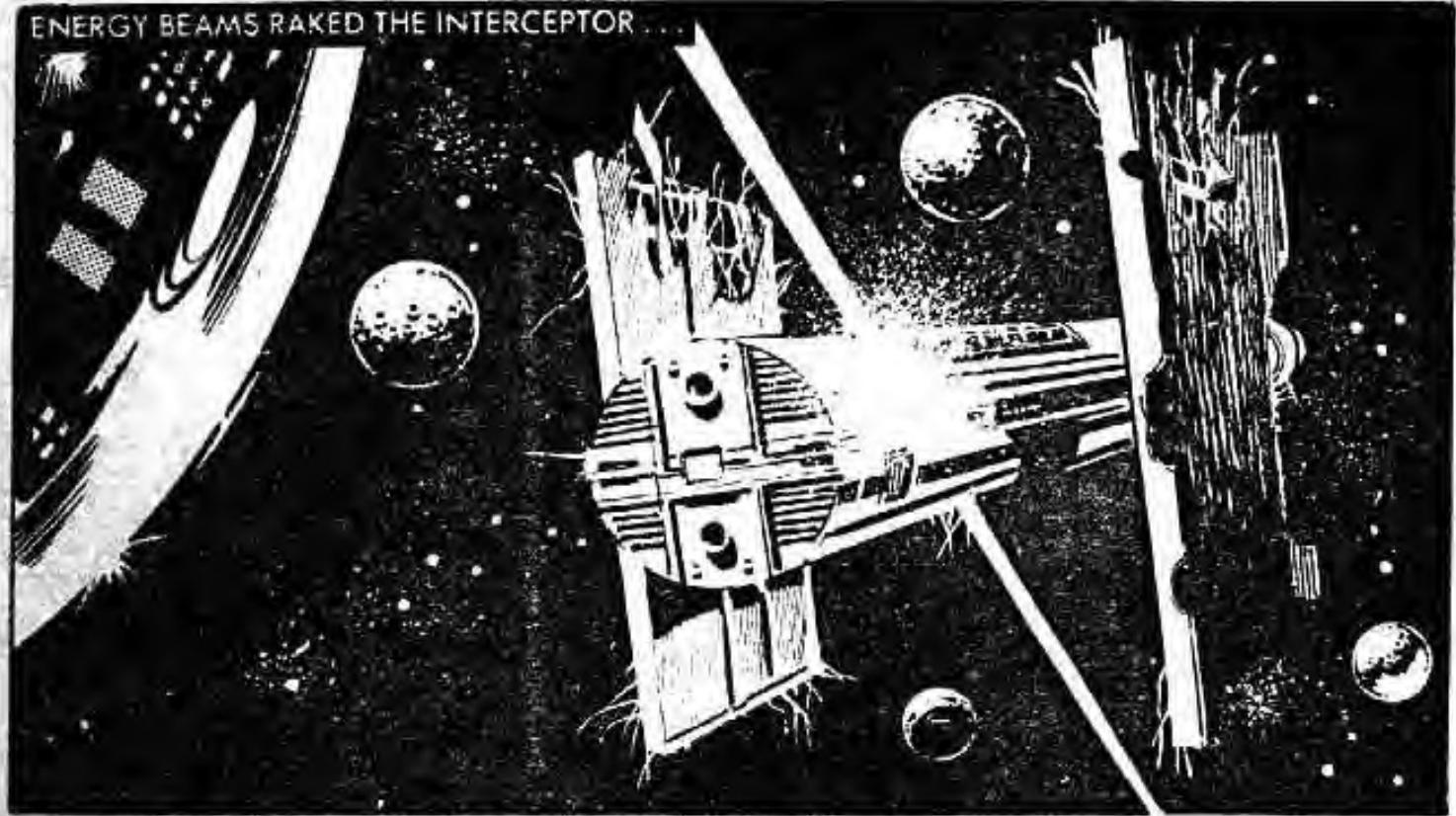


BUT THE DAMAGED INTERCEPTOR WAS STILL DANGEROUS.

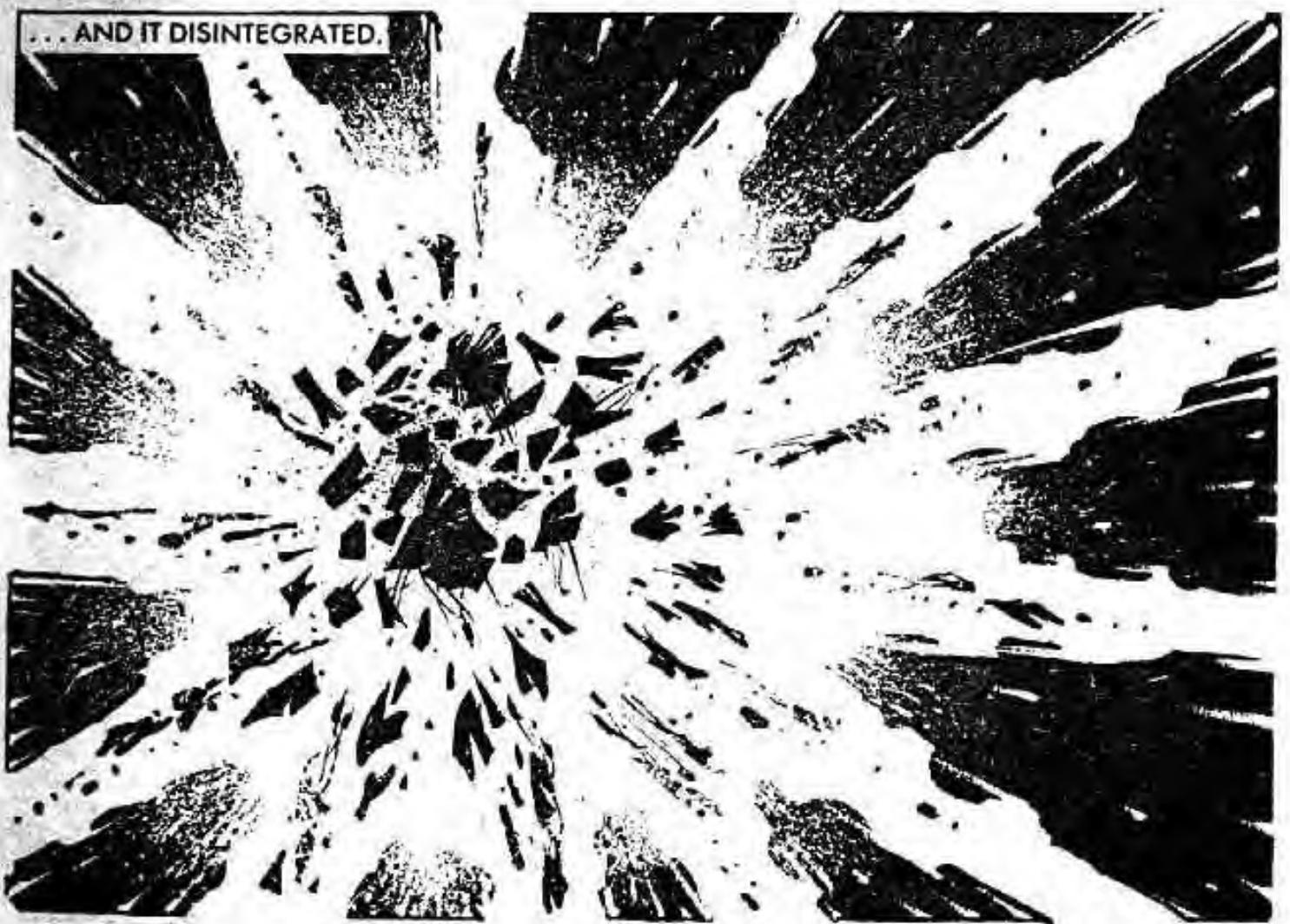
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ENERGY BEAMS RAKED THE INTERCEPTOR . . .



. . . AND IT DISINTEGRATED.



AT LAST, ISAK CAME UP WITH SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MEGALOIS—

THE ROBOT PILOT'S SURVIVED.
LET'S PICK HIM UP.

THE MEGALOI ARE A
RACE OF SUPER-ROBOTS
THOUGHT TO BE LONG
EXTINCT.

BUT THE PILOT HAD ALREADY FOUND SAFETY.

USING ITS VAST STRENGTH THE ROBOT TORE SHIELDING PANELS ON THE TAURUS —



HART BLASTED OFF AT FULL POWER...



AND TURNED SUDDENLY



UNABLE TO HALT ITS FORWARD
MOMENTUM, THE ROBOT SPUN OFF INTO SPACE.



SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE TAURUS WAS BEING DRAGGED TOWARDS THE BATTLEWORLD.



THE TRACTOR BEAM DRAGGED THE TAURUS TOWARDS A DOCKING HATCH.



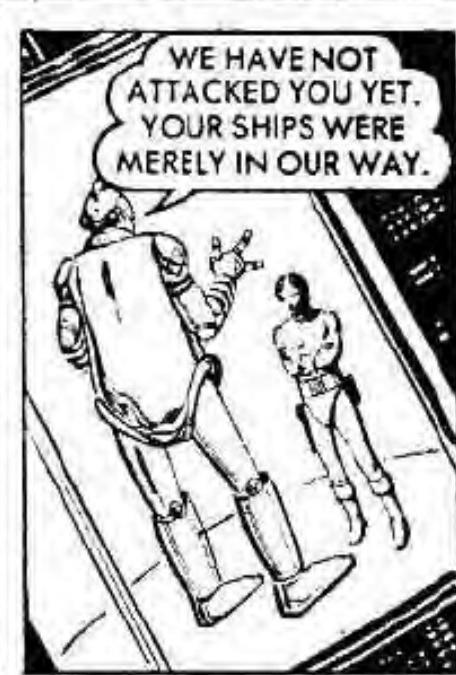
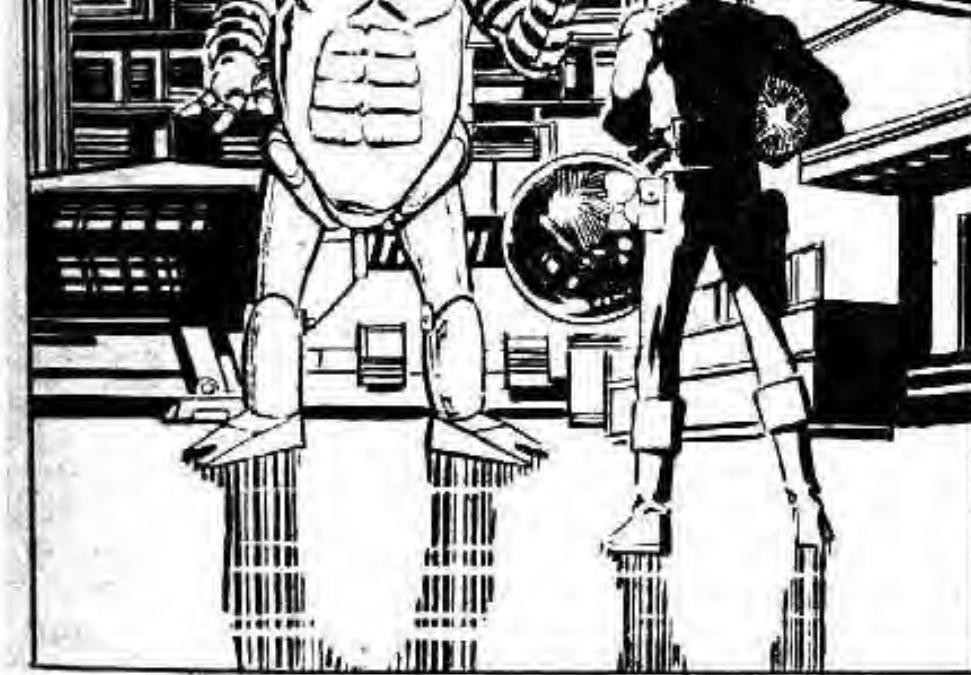
HART LEFT HIS CRAFT ONCE IT HAD DOCKED.

THE AIR IS
BREATHEABLE.

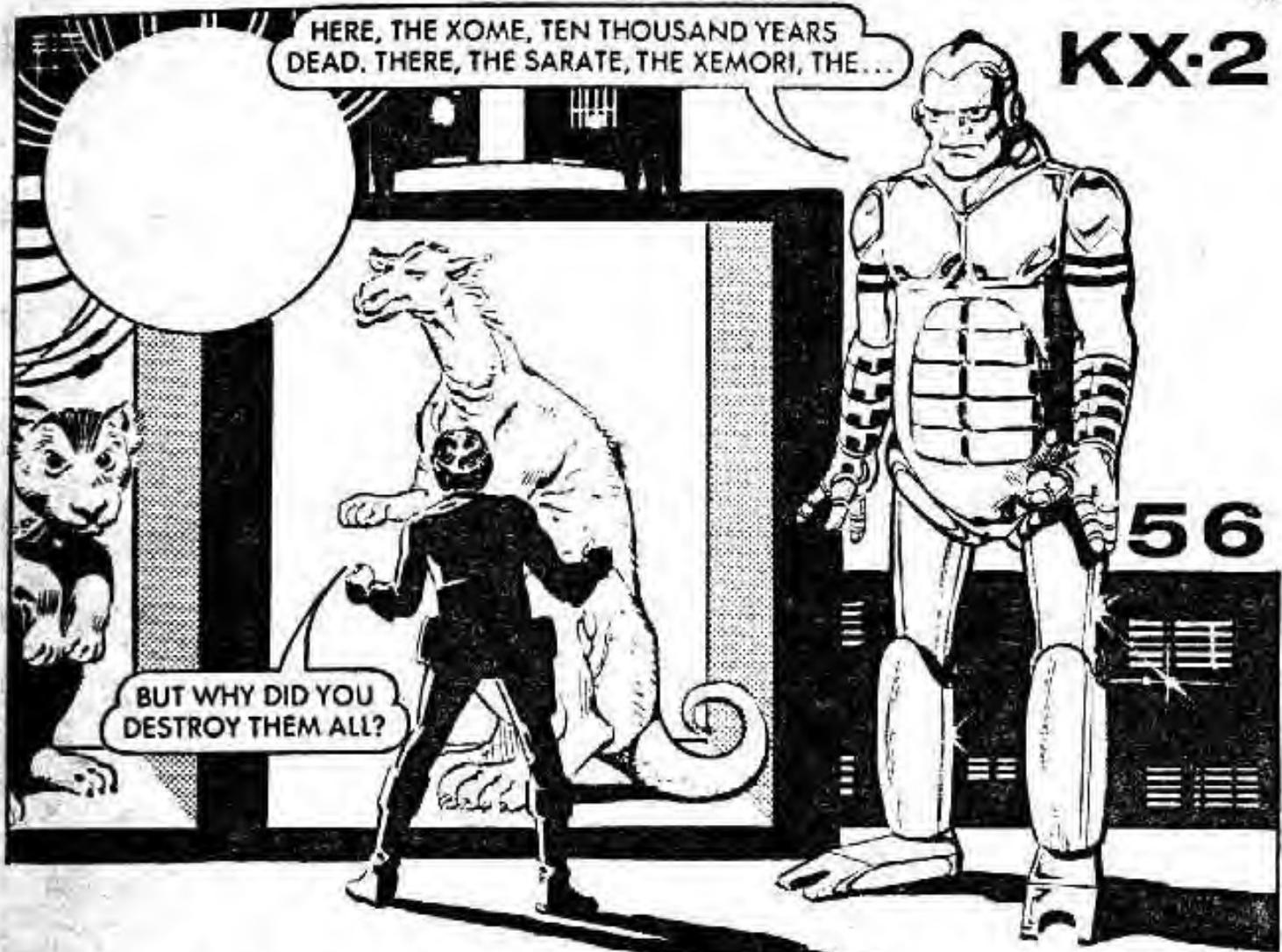
I'M RELYING ON THE FACT
THEY CAN'T KNOW WE'RE IN
CONTINUOUS
TRANSPOUNDER CONTACT,
ISAK — SO KEEP
LISTENING.

I SHALL, HART.

IMPLANTED IN HIS BRAIN HART HAD A
SOPHISTICATED DEVICE THAT ENABLED
HIM TO TRANSMIT MESSAGES TO ISAK.
ISAK COULD DO THE SAME WITH HART.





KX-2

CLIMB ON THE PEDESTAL,
EARTHLING, AND KNOW ETERNITY.



NO!

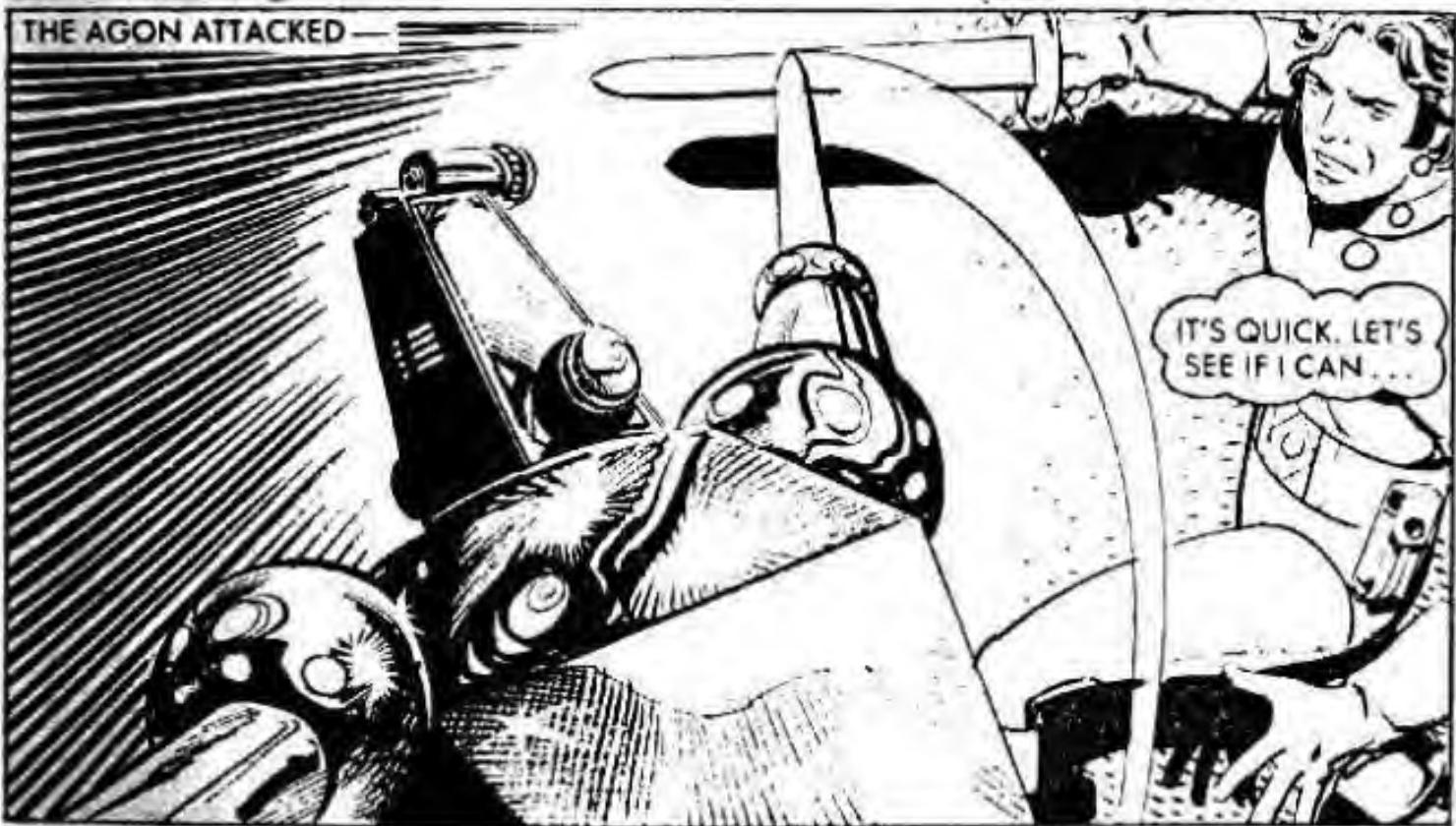
THEY'RE MAD BUT THEY'RE
ALSO VERY DANGEROUS.

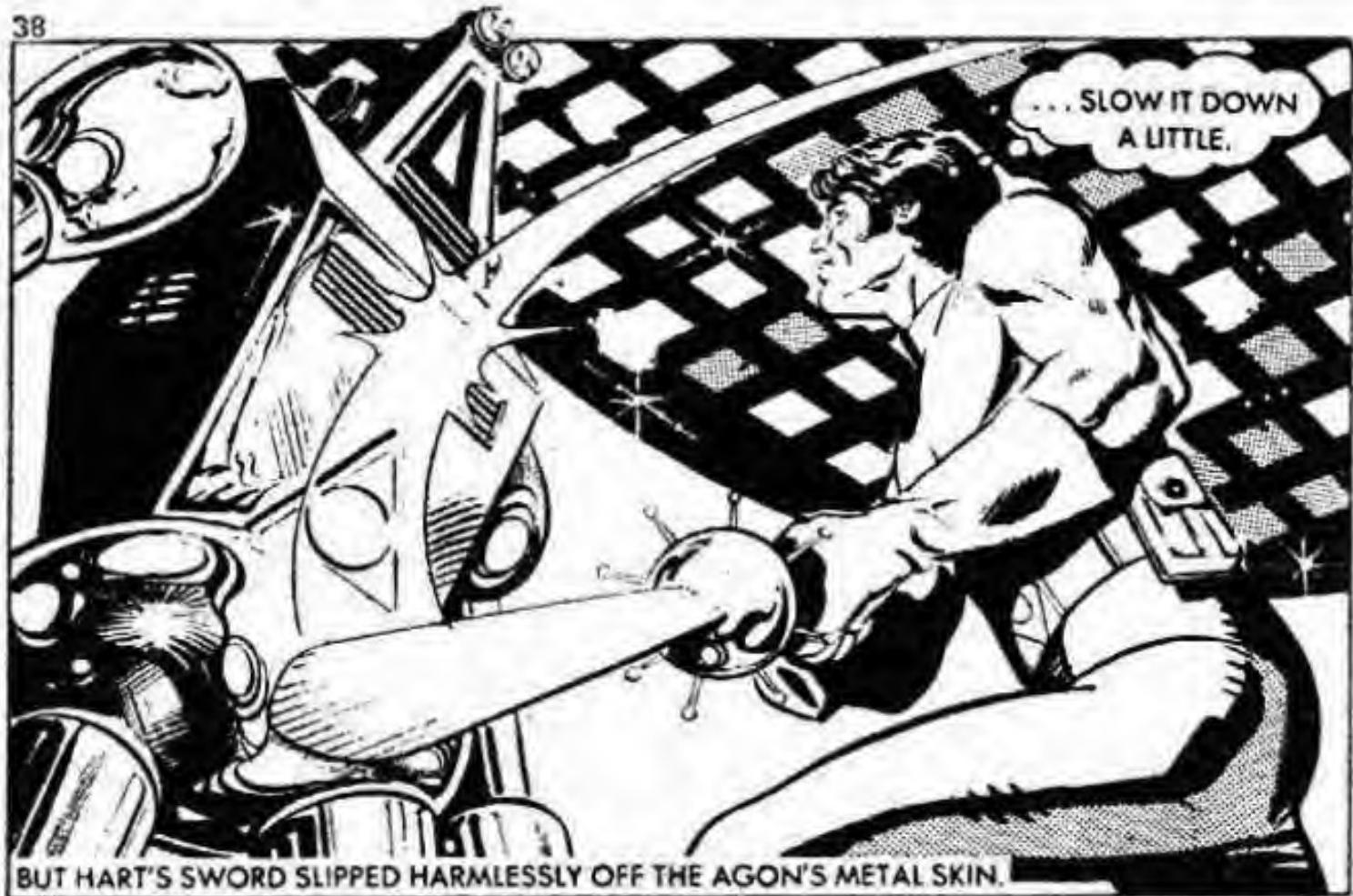
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HART DECIDED TO CHANGE THE ODDS —

ISAK — USE A STASIS FIELD ON IT!

THE AGON FROZE AS ISAK
TRANSMITTED A RADIODEAM
STASIS FIELD —

THANKS, ISAK!

HART SMASHED THE AGON'S SENSORS.



GREAT SPACE! THAT WAS
A CLOSE SHAVE!





WE WILL CUT A SWATH THROUGH THE GALAXY,
SHATTERING THEIR PLANETS ONE BY ONE WITH THE
BATTLEWORLD.

HART MADE A BID FOR FREEDOM.

IF I CAN GET TO
THE PYLON.

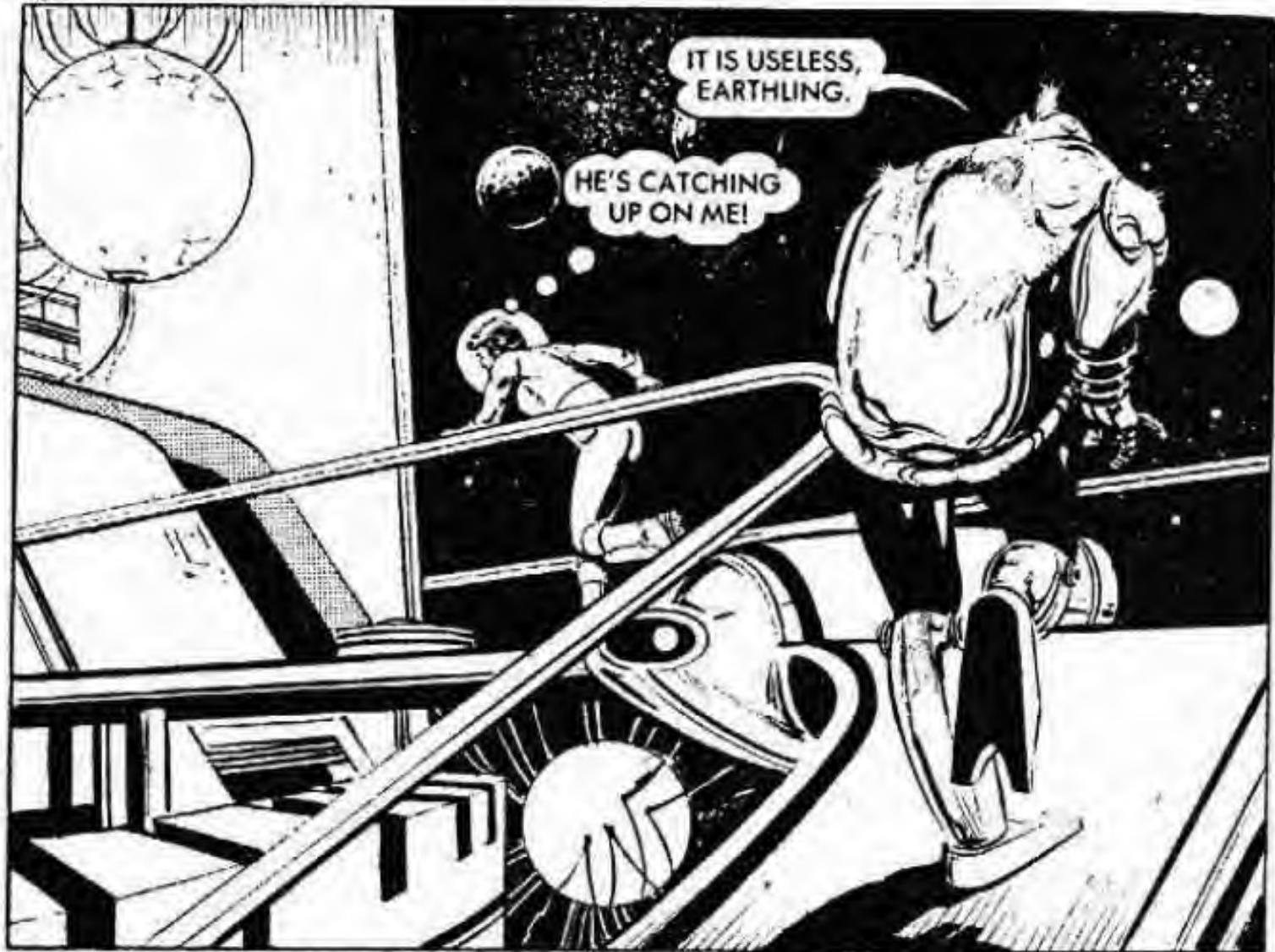
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE,
EARTHLING!



SUDDENLY, AN ALIEN FIGURE APPEARED—









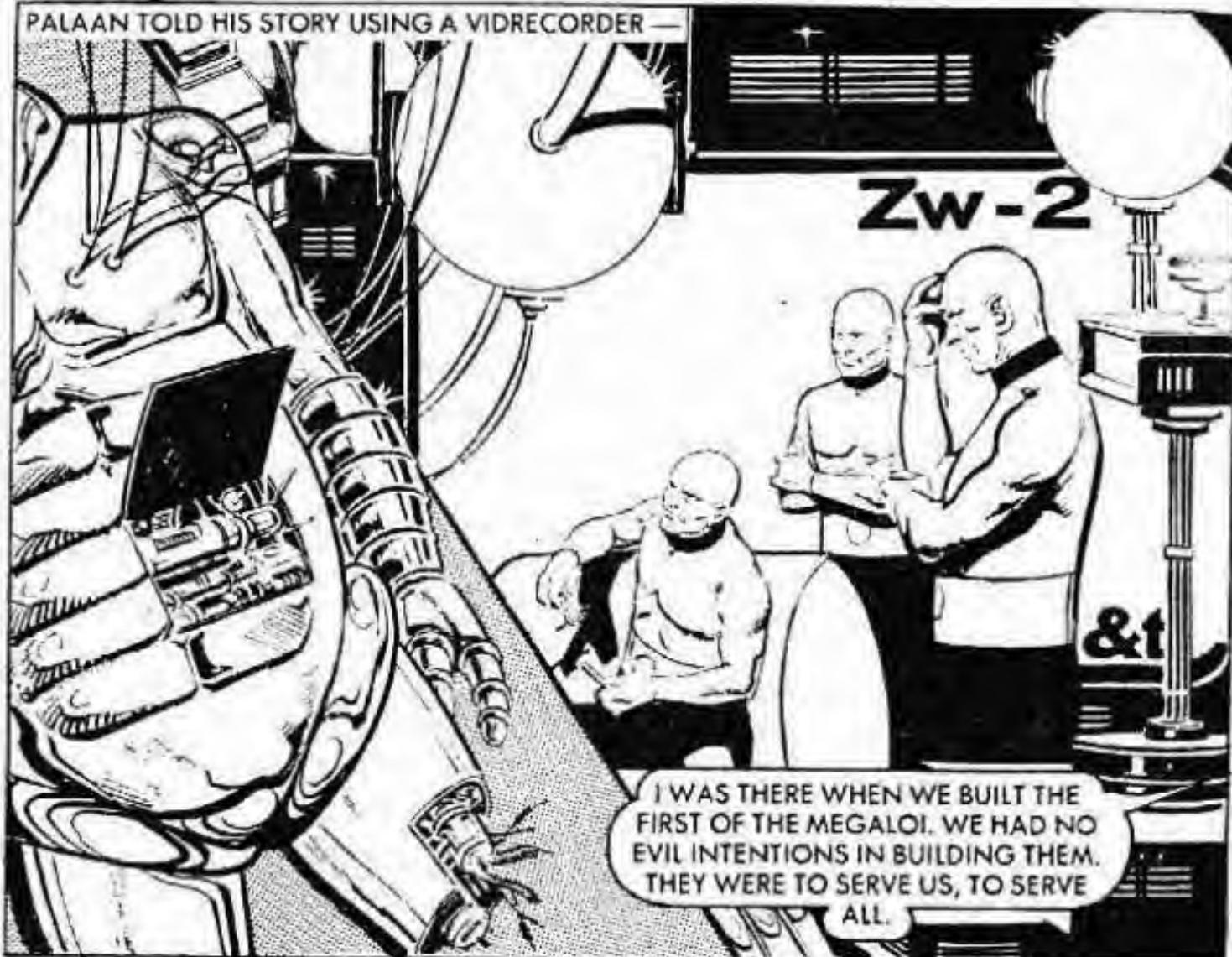


AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING A MILLION YEARS TO MEET
ONE SUCH AS YOU, EARTHLING!

WAITING WHILE A HUNDRED
CIVILIZATIONS WERE DESTROYED.



PALAAN TOLD HIS STORY USING A VIDRECODER —



IN THEIR TURN THE MEGALOI BUILT THIS WORLD — NOT A BATTLEWORLD THEN, BUT A SHIP TO EXPLORE THE FAR GALAXIES ... TO HELP INFANT RACES ... TO MAKE FOR PERFECTION IN THE UNIVERSE ...





IT WAS A SLAUGHTER!
AND IT WENT ON AND ON ...







HART PREPARED TO DESTROY THE MEGALOI



HART, THE NAVY'S HERE. THEY'RE FIGHTING THE MEGALOI.

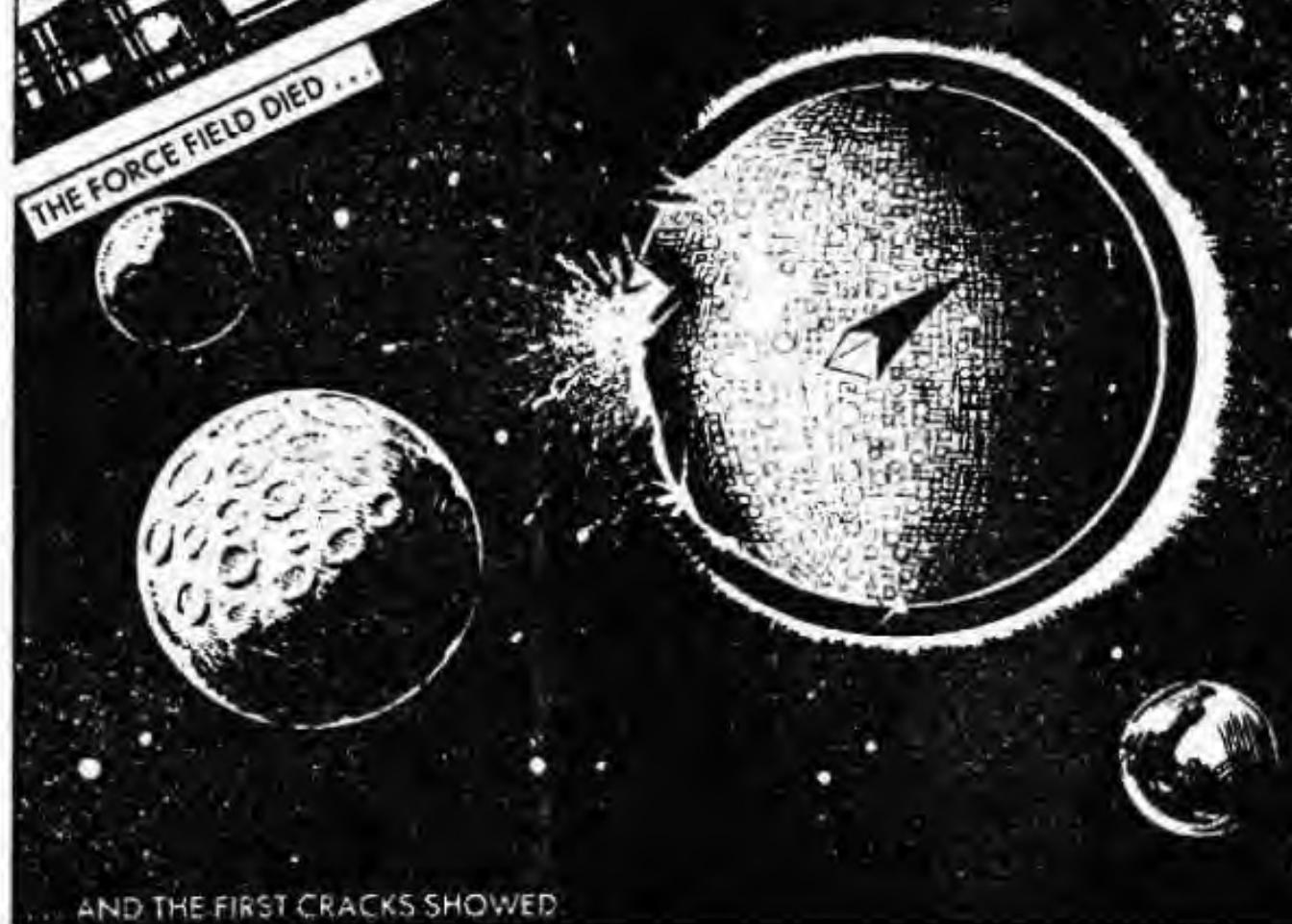
I SEE THEM.



THE NAVY ATTACKED IN FORCE.



...BUT WERE DESTROYED ONE BY ONE.



UNSHIELDED, THE BATTLEWORLD'S IMPLOSION HAD BEGUN





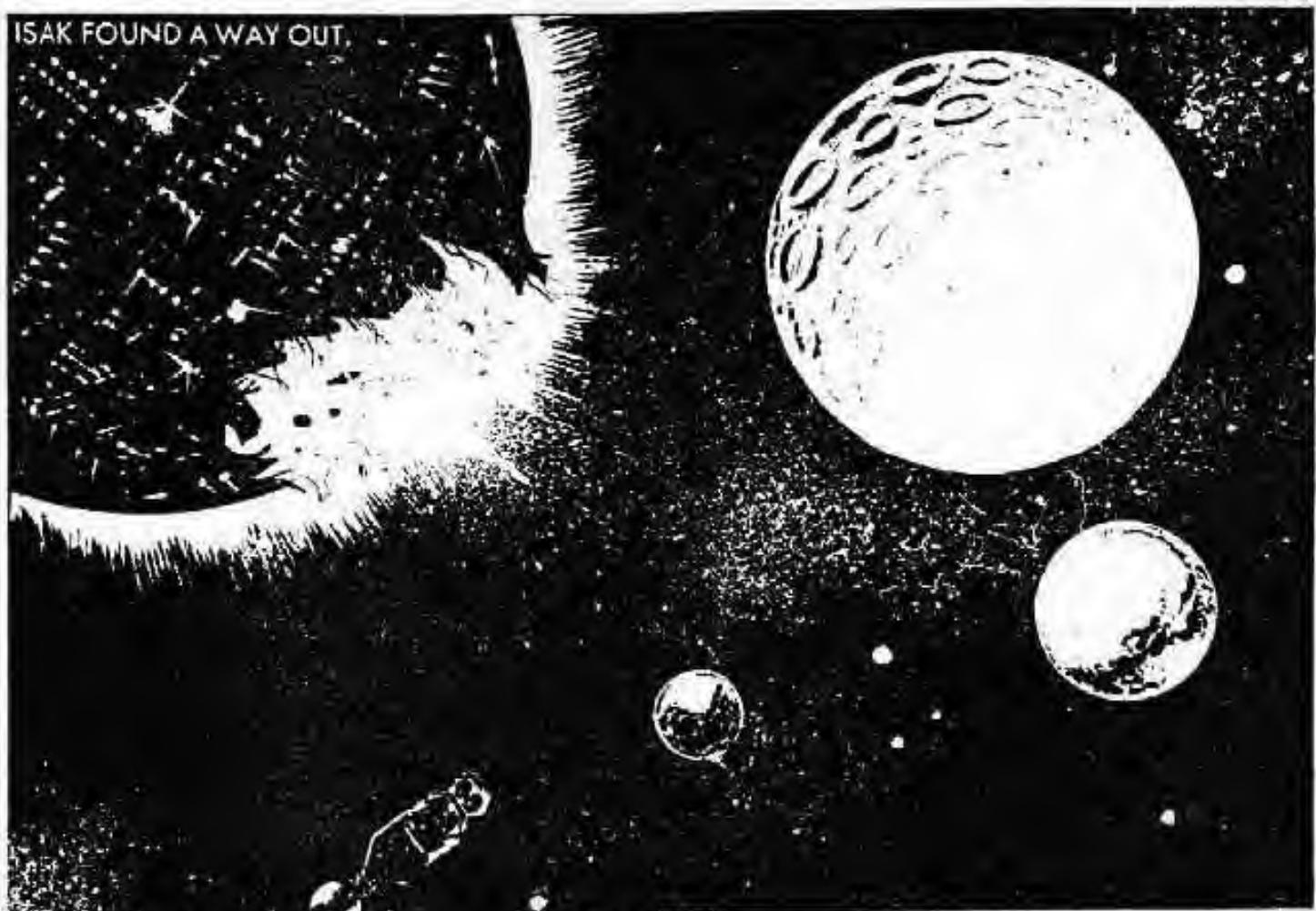
TAURUS warped along the giant corridors after picking up HART.



THE ENERGIES RELEASED BY THE IMPLODING BATTLEWORLD CREATED A BLACK HOLE



ISAK FOUND A WAY OUT.



HART TRIED TO BREAK AWAY...



...BUT EVEN BLASTING AWAY ON FULL JETS, 'TAURUS' WAS BEING DRAGGED BACK BY THE FORMING BLACK HOLE.







HART PULLED ON AN EJECT SUIT...



YOU ARE ALMOST BEYOND RESCUE
POINT... YOU MUST GO.
I'M READY... OFF WE GO!

THE EJECT SUIT, PROOFED AGAINST
RADIATION COULD PROPEL A SINGLE
PERSON AT VERY HIGH SPEED OVER A
SHORT DISTANCE—BUT LONG ENOUGH TO
BE CLEAR OF ANY POTENTIAL DANGER.



TAURUS HAS GONE!



HOW MUCH POWER DO
YOU HAVE LEFT, ISAK?

ENOUGH TO PROPEL YOU INTO A SPACE
LANE BEFORE YOUR OXYGEN RUNS OUT.

THE COMBINATION OF MAN AND MACHINE HAD TRIUMPHED OVER ADVERSITY. HART AND ISAK WOULD LIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN, AGAINST THE MANY EVIL BEINGS THAT THREATENED THE UNIVERSE.



DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

OTHER

STARBLAZER

SPACE ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 95

THE
GATE TO YESTERDAY

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S

EL NATH



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STARBLAZERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

TAURUS

The constellation of Taurus in the Northern Hemisphere contains one of the brightest stars in the sky—Tauri or Aldebaran. In this constellation are two well known star clusters, Pleiades and Hyades. The Crab Nebula is also in this constellation, and is the remains of an explosion witnessed in 1054 AD.